

Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Board of Finance Budget Workshop #1

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 @6:00 pm

Hybrid: Town Hall- Meeting Room 1 and Via Zoom

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2024 APR 16 PM 2:06
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

BOF Members Present: S. Chapman, K. Belding, T. Vaillancourt, M. Egan, M. Hayes, J. Thomas

Also Present: Superintendent- Daniel P. Sullivan III, Assistant Superintendent- Jessica L. Kuckel, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education- Eve Hurley, BOE Business Director, Rachel Linkkila.

1. CALL TO ORDER- Chair, Scott Chapman called meeting to order at 6:04pm

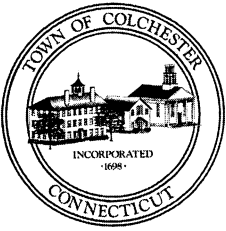
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

T. Vaillancourt made a motion to add a citizens discussion Q&A session. 2nd by J. Thomas.

- Discussion from board members
- Motion NOT carried. 2 yes - 4 no

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- V. Rose- Thanked the board, spoke about concerns regarding budget and no new programs.
- M. Dubreuil- Spoke about BOE cease and desist letter regarding citizens comments, capital plan policies, central office.
- B. Mahon- Spoke about school fields.
- R. Silberman- Spoke about budget ratio between BOE/Town, underfunding on town, requests breakdown and explanation in more detail of budget requests for public understanding.
- D. Bouchard- Thanked last citizen for their comment, spoke about prior years agenda format, unassigned fund balance, capital reserve, teachers' salary steps, BOE grants received and Medicare reimbursements.
- J. Cox- Spoke about paraprofessional salary, retention and recruitment of teachers, basic maintenance of schools, asked BOF on their opinion regarding excessive asks from the BOE and thanked everyone for their work.
- D. Bouchard- Spoke about teacher salaries compared to neighboring town, superintendent salary, remodeling of central office, possibility of BOE moving to 3rd floor when roof got fixed.
- T. Moroch - Spoke about comparison to other town budgets, paraprofessional salaries.
- M. Dubreuil- Spoke about Wi-Fi strength in meeting room, audit from BOE, recommends an emergency meeting for final numbers from BOE.
- V. Rose- Spoke about budget ratio between BOE/Town
- J. Rose- Spoke about decrease of 2 paraprofessionals and addition of Registered Behavioral Technicians.
- Katherine- Thanked board members and impressed with the teachers.
- K. Kardys- Questioned superintendent about process on not duplicating purchases.
- B. Mahon- Spoke about price increases affecting budget. Questioned BOE about school enrollment.



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

- M. Millington- (speaking as a citizen) Spoke about a trending question regarding the future of Colchester becoming a retirement town or building it up for the younger generation, possible statistics on births/deaths to get a better idea.
- D. Bouchard- Spoke about fund balance, capital reserve, capital outlay, population in town, demographics of town, Medicare reimbursements, paraprofessionals in the classroom, central office staffing.
- M. Millington (speaking as a citizen)- Spoke about the process for children on Medicare.
- M. Dubreiul- Spoke about central office and salaries.
- J. Fusco- Spoke about limit of citizens comments.

5 Minute Recess

4. BOE/ADMINISTRATION Q&A- Discussion and Q&A were had between Board of Finance members and BOE regarding the audit process, budget request clarification, salary explanation, out of town tuition cost, Honeywell payment, budget ratios, spending process and clarification on board member questions/concerns.

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- T. Moroch- Offered point of clarification from a pride and purpose working group. Expressed gratitude towards everyone for doing the best they can.
- M. Dubreiul- Spoke about capital reserve fund process.
- D. Bouchard- Spoke regarding having the BOE chair attend these meetings to answer questions, minimum budget requirement, Medicare reimbursement, software, greeters at school and safety plan.
- Justin- Thanked board members, administration, and superintendent.

ADJOURNMENT-Motion to adjourn by M. Hayes 2nd by M. Egan. **Motion carried 6-0.** Meeting adjourned at 9:44pm

Submitted By:
Kayla Fortier, Clerk